

2009 Teacher of the Year Nomination Process

The 2009 South Dakota Teacher of the Year program is now underway. We strongly urge every school district to participate in this exciting program! The Teacher of the Year program is an honor for teachers and is an excellent way to acknowledge and laud your gold-standard teachers.

How do we know if an educator has the qualities of a Teacher of the Year?

The goal of the Teacher of the Year Program is to recognize and honor the tremendous contributions of outstanding classroom teachers. **Note: a classroom teacher is a person who has a class of his/her own and spends at least three or more hours per day, five days a week, for six or more calendar months during a school year in a classroom teaching students.** School counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers are NOT eligible.

District Teachers of the Year represent their districts and may end up representing their ESA Region, South Dakota, and/or the U.S., so each Teacher of the Year candidate should:

- Have a superior ability to inspire students of ALL backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- Be an exceptionally skilled and dedicated classroom teacher from a state approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve;
- Be planning to continue in an active teaching status (supervisory and administrative responsibilities are secondary considerations);
- Have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- Play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school; and
- Be poised, articulate, and have the energy to withstand the demanding schedule that would accompany selection as the South Dakota Teacher of the Year.

How can our school district participate in the program?

A school district may choose to set up its own selection process for choosing a District Teacher of the Year. Or, it may use guidelines created by the Department of Education. The guidelines can be altered to fit a district's needs. The guidelines and template are available online at <http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/distinguishededucators/TOY/index.asp>.

How does our District Teacher of the Year become eligible for the ESA Regional and/or the South Dakota Teacher of the Year Award?

Each District Teacher of the Year becomes a nominee for his or her district's ESA Regional Teacher of the Year Award. If the District Teacher of the Year is selected as the ESA Regional Teacher of the Year, he or she becomes a nominee for the South Dakota Teacher of the Year award. If chosen as the South Dakota Teacher of the Year, he/she then becomes a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

The South Dakota Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Governor's Teacher Leadership Conference in Pierre to honor both the new South Dakota Teacher of the Year and all seven of the ESA Regional Teachers of the Year.

When is the 2009 South Dakota Teacher of the Year application due?

All ESA Regional Teachers of the Year must have their completed 2009 South Dakota Teacher of the Year application packets in to Lanette Johnston at the Department of Education, Office of Accreditation & Teacher Quality, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501 *no later than July 1* in order to be eligible for the South Dakota Teacher of the Year award.

How do I find out more about the Teacher of the Year program?

To learn more about the South Dakota Teacher of the Year Program, visit

<http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/distinguishededucators/TOY/index.asp> or contact Lanette Johnston via email at lanette.johnston@state.sd.us or by phone at 605-773-8415. For information on the National Teacher of the Year program, visit [http://www.ccsso.org/Projects/National Teacher of the Year/](http://www.ccsso.org/Projects/National_Teacher_of_the_Year/).